

copy

Newcomb & Company
National Exchange Bank Bldg.,
Baltimore, Md.

April 4th, 1925.

Mr. E.H. Adams,
Bayville, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Adams:-

I have your letter of the 2nd inst., and appreciate very much the trouble you took about the Brasher piece, which came safely to hand this morning.

It is still not quite clear to me, however, whether you took into consideration the fact, which I pointed out in my previous letter, that the planchet of this piece is much thinner than that of the doubloon. I measured the diameter of both pieces and made a calculation as to the amount of loss in weight due to the removal of that much in diameter of a piece of uniform thickness and reached the conclusion that the clipping could not possibly account for more than 10% of the original weight, whereas this piece weighs less than half the weight of a doubloon and is not sufficiently worn on the surface to account for such a loss of weight. It looked to me, therefore, as if a planchet of the weight of a half doubloon had been used and struck from the same dies as the doubloon, resulting in the appearance of a clipping.

I understand that this coin has been approved by both Mr. David Proskey and Mr. B.G. Johnson, of the St. Louis Stamp & Coin Company, who have pronounced the coin absolutely genuine and O.K. as a half doubloon, but knowing you as I do I would rather rely upon your opinion than theirs, and am merely writing this to be sure that you had considered the above question in reaching your decision.

2.

Adams--Bayville, N.Y.

As for the Brazilian piece referred to in your letter, I have a specimen dated 1906, and saw one a few days ago, which I returned, and my recollection is that it was dated 1922.

Very truly yours,

W.N.

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Edgar H. Adams,
Bayville, N.Y.

April 2nd, 1925.

Mr. Waldo Newcomer,
Exchange Bank Office,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Newcomer:-

I have carefully examined the Brasher piece, and find that it genuine, and from the dies of the other Brasher pieces, except that it has been so much trimmed, which of course accounts for its weight being less than the other Brasher pieces. Personally I do not think it was intended for a half doubloon, although it is curious that anyone should trim such a coin to this extent.

As for the value of the piece, you can very well reckon it yourself by comparing it with the prices brought by other Brasher doubloons.

It makes one more to add to the list of known Brasher pieces, of which there are nine known, and this makes a tenth.

May I ask if you possess a 20,000 reis piece of Brazil of the Republican issue? I have handled quite a number of Brazilian coins, but just recently have seen the first of the above pieces. Nearly every year since the Republican mint has operated (from 1889) there have been a limited number of 10,000 and 20,000 reis struck, but they seldom get into the hands of the collectors. This particular piece is dated 1913.

I am returning the Brasher doubloon by express to-day

Sincerely yours,

(signed) E.H. Adams

APR 17 1925

ELMER S. SEARS

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AND COLLECTORS

April 16th, 1925.

David Proskey,
% New York Stamp & Coin Co.,
6th Ave. at 51st St.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Proskey:

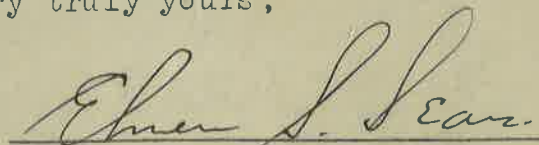
I have just received a letter from my customer regarding the rare Brasher and I am enclosing same for your inspection, together with a copy of my letter to him in answer to what he has written.

You will note he has returned the coin and his reason for so doing has been simply and solely upon advise from our friend Adams. You will note in my letter to him I have showed wherein I think Adams was wrong and he may change his mind upon receipt of my letter.

I should like to hear your ideas regarding this and also what you think of my letter to him and my stand in the matter. I am very much dissatisfied in this, as I fully believed that he would take the coin.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Very truly yours,



ES/ET



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BETWEEN 51ST AND 52ND STREET

April 18, 1925.

My dear Sears:-

I thank you for Submitting the correspondence relative to the Brasher Half Doubloon and will say that my opinion still is that it is unique so far as known and in no way could have been clipped or cut down from a Doubloon- as not a trace is shown of any tampering with the edge and no man can cut down any coin and leave the edge natural.

While Mr. Adams is well known to me for years, I cannot consider him an expert on such a subject and really think his error of judgment must be ~~owing to failing eyesight~~, as in case of a "new discovery for a cent" in the 1820's or 1830's - published a few years ago in the Numismatist which was Supposed to have 12 stars in place of 13 and which even showed the 13 stars in the photo-engraving published. Mr Adams I've always considered a very clever coin merchant but not a Numismatist in the strict sense of determining the real from the false. The late Mr. Low had the same lack of discrimination, and for many years would bring me coins and medals to have the counterfeits weeded out-- even the rare Hard Times token "Man & Brother" - he believed to be false when it bears every indication of being made by the same die sinker who produced the common "Woman & Sister". It is only necessary for a person to compile a list of any series or become a member of a society in this U. S. to be styled an "Expert" - and the less they know the more they write.

I do not know Mr. Newcomer but think his diagnosis is superior to that of Mr. Adams - as he has also observed the points which would prove conclusively the coin was never a Doubloon. The mere fact of the coin not showing any wear is certainly in its favor instead of against it- as in case of the proof Confederate Half Dollar which was "unique" until Mr. Adams heard of a circulated worn specimen although we know four were coined.

In case you do not dispose of the Brasher in the next week or so I would like to show it to a N.Y. Collector who would be interested in it, as he bought my N.J. Washington Cent and other ~~scarcities~~. I may be able to dispose of it for you.

I notice Mr. A. appears in his letters to be more interested in his offering of the Brazilian coin (Guttag's probly) than in giving close inspection to the coin submitted for his opinion, which is sufficiently vacillating to deprive it of any value, even if he were possessed of the ability to judge, so

I fear the lack of financial interest in the matter may have warped his ideas.

I enclose a rubbing of a curious mint error , an 8 Reales 1784 struck on a 4 Reales planchet Mexico City mint.

Truly yours,